

INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR, INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION, AND CONSULTANTS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1950, IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

PRESENT: Department of State - Mr. Sergeant, Acting Director

Mr. Phillips

Mr. Hulten

Mr. Stone

Mr. Oechsner, Acting Executive Secretary

Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens

Department of the Army - General McClure

Economic Cooperation Administration - Mr. Mullen

Mr. Berding

Central Intelligence Agency - [redacted]

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With respect to Item I on the agenda, the Acting Director requested Mr. Oechsner to report the status of proposed priorities in the planning field. Mr. Oechsner stated that IFIS at its last conference had decided not to request the board at this time to set priorities among its projects, inasmuch as IFIS itself would undertake to do this. It was agreed that the Executive Secretary would submit at the next meeting a statement of IFIS priorities for review by the board.

Discussion of Item II on the agenda was deferred until the next meeting to enable Mr. Stone and [redacted] to complete their survey. General McClure commented on the usefulness of training or documentary films as a vehicle of subtle propaganda. Mr. Sergeant asked Mr. Stone to undertake as an IFIS project a survey of what is now being done in this field and what further opportunities were offered.

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With respect to Item III on the agenda, Mr. Phillips reported on the status of State Department plans covering its responsibilities and tasks in the event of war, and stated that he hoped to have ready for the next meeting of the board an outline plan.

Mr. Berding introduced Mr. Robert Mullen, Director of Information, ECA, who reported on certain ECA problems in the information field, particularly among French labor groups, and emphasized the need for State Department assistance with implementing materials produced in this country. Mr. Hulten reported on what was already being done in this field by the Information and Educational Exchange Program. Mr. Sergeant proposed that Mr. Hulten designate a person to coordinate with ECA on specific projects, after the board agreed that this matter should be given high priority and that joint projects should be developed.

In connection with Item IV on the agenda, Mr. Oechsner explained the need of OPC's supplying data on the status of its planning, in order to enable IFIS to carry out its coordination responsibilities under NSC 59. [redacted] stated that such data was being prepared, and it was agreed that it should be submitted to the board. It was further

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agreed that operational coordination between State and OPC should remain as at present.

With regard to Item V, Mr. Sargeant pointed out the usefulness of the RAND "Analysis of OWI Central Directives." He requested the Executive Secretary to procure a sufficient number of copies for study by board members who did not already have them. Mr. Sargeant also reported on informal explorations with RAND regarding the availability of some of their researchers as consultants to the Department's information program.

Mr. Sargeant asked [redacted] to comment briefly on progress of the balloon project. In doing so, [redacted] requested authorization to coordinate with ONR on research, which was agreed to.

The question of a uniform reply to private inquiries re government use of balloons was dealt with, and it was agreed that this reply should be that "the matter is under continuous study by agencies of the government, but disclosure of results at this time would not be in the public interest."

Mr. Sargeant reported that Mr. Connors is prepared to leave on his survey trip to Tokyo. Admiral Stevens announced that Col. Bohnaker of his staff would also make this trip.

Mr. Sargeant also reported that Mr. Ken Dyke is being sent to Tokyo as a consultant to the UN to make a survey on the subject of the indoctrination of U.S. and other troops re the UN role in the Korean campaign.

General McClure reported on a conversation he had had with Mr. Paul Linebarger following the latter's return from a trip to the Far East in which Mr. Linebarger reported that (a) there was inadequate personnel available for the proper organization of psychological warfare in the Korean campaign; (b) at least some of the VOA broadcasts during the Korean campaign were not closely geared to the realities on the spot; and (c) that information policy guidances were not sufficiently helpful to operators.

Mr. Sargeant felt that a conference with Mr. Linebarger on these points would be useful to the information program.

* Note: This is not the total discussion re balloons.
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